

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2994

To provide for various capital investments in technology education in the  
United States.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 1997

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon (for herself and Mr. DAVIS of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Science and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide for various capital investments in technology  
education in the United States.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Technology Education  
5       Capital Investment Act of 1997”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

1           (1) the high technology industry is one of the  
2           fastest growing areas in the United States economy;

3           (2) the United States is a world leader in the  
4           high technology industries, and especially in the in-  
5           formation technology industry;

6           (3) the continued growth and prosperity of the  
7           high technology industry is important to the contin-  
8           ued prosperity of the United States economy;

9           (4) an adequate supply of highly-skilled tech-  
10          nology workers is essential for the success of ad-  
11          vanced technologies and business entities that use  
12          information technology;

13          (5) as of the date of enactment of this Act,  
14          there is a shortage of information technology work-  
15          ers and workers in other high technology industries;  
16          and

17          (6) in the absence of a concerted effort by busi-  
18          ness entities, the Federal Government, the govern-  
19          ments of States and political subdivisions thereof,  
20          and educational institutions, the shortage of infor-  
21          mation technology workers will continue to be a  
22          problem.

1 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION EDUCATION PRO-**  
2 **GRAMS.**

3 (a) INFORMAL SCIENCE PROGRAMS.—(1) There are  
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the Na-  
5 tional Science Foundation to conduct informal science and  
6 math education programs \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal  
7 years 1999 and 2000.

8 (2)(A) The National Science Foundation shall expand  
9 the informal science and math education programs con-  
10 ducted by the Foundation that promote the understanding  
11 of science and technology through voluntary, self-directed,  
12 and life-long learning opportunities by fostering commu-  
13 nity-based and institutional math and science education  
14 programs. In expanding such programs, the Director may  
15 give priority to providing for organizations, projects, or  
16 programs that provide inquiry-based and hands-on sci-  
17 entific learning opportunities for students at pre-kinder-  
18 garten through secondary education levels.

19 (B) Of the amount appropriated in paragraph (1),  
20 there are authorized to be appropriated to the Director  
21 of the National Science Foundation to carry out subpara-  
22 graph (A) \$14,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 and  
23 2000.

24 (b) EXPANSION OF NATIONAL ADVANCED SCI-  
25 ENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.—There  
26 are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the

1 National Science Foundation to carry out the national ad-  
2 vanced scientific and technical education program under  
3 section 3(a) of the Scientific and Advanced-Technology  
4 Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 1862i(a))—

5 (1) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 1999; and

6 (2) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2000.

7 **SEC. 4. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION STATE STIMULUS**  
8 **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education may  
10 make grants to States to provide supplementary scholar-  
11 ships to students for study leading to a postsecondary de-  
12 gree in science, math, engineering, or a related field. Such  
13 scholarships may be awarded by a State entity such as  
14 the State higher education system, the State scholarship  
15 commission, or an equivalent State entity.

16 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—(1) A scholarship awarded under  
17 subsection (a) may be applied to any technology-related  
18 degree program offered at an accredited institution of  
19 higher learning, including a college, university, community  
20 college, or vocational-training institution.

21 (2) A scholarship awarded under subsection (a) may  
22 not, when combined with other sources of financial assist-  
23 ance, exceed the cost of tuition and related expenses of  
24 the qualified degree program of the recipient.

1 (c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of  
2 Education may not make a grant to a State under sub-  
3 section (a) unless such State provides not less than one-  
4 half of the cost of the program for which the grant is pro-  
5 vided from State funds.

6 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
7 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Edu-  
8 cation a total of \$50,000,000 for grants under this sub-  
9 section.

10 **SEC. 5. HANDS-ON STUDENT TRAINING (H.O.S.T.) PARTNER-**  
11 **SHIP GRANTS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may  
13 make start-up grants to institutions of higher learning to  
14 develop industry-sponsored internship programs that pro-  
15 vide opportunities for undergraduate engineering students  
16 to receive hands-on training at local businesses.

17 (b) PRIORITIES.—Special emphasis shall be given  
18 under this section to those programs that—

19 (1) demonstrate a long-term financial commit-  
20 ment from industry participants for initiation and  
21 long-term operation of the program;

22 (2) involve extensive input and participation by  
23 all industry participants;

24 (3) adequately financially compensate student  
25 participants; and

1 (4) encourage technology education.

2 (c) RESTRICTIONS.—(1) Not more than one grant  
3 may be awarded to an entity under subsection (a).

4 (2) Awards under subsection (a) may be applied to  
5 expenses related to the creation of the programs described  
6 in that subsection, including the recruitment of businesses  
7 or organizations to participate in such programs.

8 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
9 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Com-  
10 merce a total of \$2,000,000 for grants under this sub-  
11 section.

12 **SEC. 6. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF EMPLOYER-PROVIDED**  
13 **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE; RESTORATION**  
14 **OF EXCLUSION FOR GRADUATE LEVEL AS-**  
15 **SISTANCE.**

16 (a) EXCLUSION MADE PERMANENT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 127 of the Internal  
18 Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to educational as-  
19 sistance programs) is amended by striking sub-  
20 section (d).

21 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
22 by paragraph (1) shall apply to taxable years begin-  
23 ning after May 31, 1998.

24 (b) RESTORATION OF EXCLUSION FOR GRADUATE  
25 LEVEL ASSISTANCE.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The last sentence of section  
2       127(c)(1) of such Code is amended by striking all  
3       that follows “hobbies” and inserting a period.

4           (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
5       by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to ex-  
6       penses relating to courses beginning after the date  
7       of the enactment of this Act.

8   **SEC. 7. TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE COMMISSION.**

9       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

10           (1) BUSINESS ENTITY.—The term “business  
11       entity” means a firm, corporation, association, part-  
12       nership, consortium, joint venture, or other form of  
13       enterprise.

14           (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
15       means the Technology Workforce Commission estab-  
16       lished under subsection (b).

17           (3) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term  
18       “information technology” has the meaning given  
19       that term in section 5002 of the Information Tech-  
20       nology Management Reform Act of 1996 (110 Stat.  
21       679).

22           (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
23       the several States of the United States, the terri-  
24       tories of the United States, and the District of Co-  
25       lumbia.

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE  
2 COMMISSION.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a com-  
4 mission to be known as the Technology Workforce  
5 Commission.

6 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

7 (A) COMPOSITION.—(i) The Commission  
8 shall be composed of 21 members to be ap-  
9 pointed as follows:

10 (I) Seven members shall be appointed  
11 by the President, and shall be individuals  
12 who are officers or employees of the Fed-  
13 eral Government.

14 (II) Four members shall be appointed  
15 by the Speaker of the House of Represent-  
16 atives, of whom one shall be a Member of  
17 Congress.

18 (III) Three members shall be ap-  
19 pointed by the minority leader of the  
20 House, of whom one shall be a Member of  
21 Congress.

22 (IV) Four members shall be appointed  
23 by the majority leader of the Senate, of  
24 whom one shall be a Member of Congress.



1 (V) Three members shall be appointed  
2 by the minority leader of the Senate, of  
3 whom one shall be a Member of Congress.

4 (ii) Of the members appointed under  
5 clauses (i)(II) through (i)(V)—

6 (I) Seven shall be individuals em-  
7 ployed in high technology business entities;  
8 and

9 (II) Three shall be representatives of  
10 State governments.

11 (B) DATE.—The appointments of the  
12 members of the Commission shall be made by  
13 the date that is 30 days after the date of enact-  
14 ment of this Act.

15 (3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—  
16 Members shall be appointed for the life of the Com-  
17 mission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not  
18 affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same  
19 manner as the original appointment.

20 (4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days  
21 after the date on which all members of the Commis-  
22 sion have been appointed, the Commission shall hold  
23 its first meeting.

24 (5) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at  
25 the call of the Chairperson.

1           (6) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of  
2       the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a  
3       lesser number of members may hold hearings.

4           (7) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—  
5       The Commission shall select a chairperson and vice  
6       chairperson from among its members.

7       (c) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—

8           (1) STUDY.—

9                (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall  
10       conduct a thorough study of all matters relating  
11       to the shortage of technology workers in the  
12       United States.

13            (B) MATTERS STUDIED.—The matters  
14       studied by the Commission shall include an ex-  
15       amination of—

16                (i) the causes of the shortage of tech-  
17       nology workers in the United States;

18                (ii) possible solutions to address the  
19       shortage referred to in clause (i); and

20                (iii) the relative efficacy of programs  
21       in the United States and foreign countries  
22       to provide for an increase in the number of  
23       technology workers, with special emphasis  
24       on programs that provide for secondary  
25       education or postsecondary education in a

1 program other than a 4-year baccalaureate  
2 program (including associate degree pro-  
3 grams and graduate degree programs).

4 (C) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—As part of the  
5 study conducted under this subsection, the  
6 Commission shall hold public hearings concern-  
7 ing the issues referred to in clauses (i) and (ii)  
8 of subparagraph (B).

9 (D) EXISTING INFORMATION.—To the ex-  
10 tent practicable, in carrying out the study  
11 under this subsection, the Commission shall  
12 identify and use existing information related to  
13 the issues referred to in clauses (i) and (ii) of  
14 subparagraph (B).

15 (E) CONSULTATION WITH CHIEF INFORMA-  
16 TION OFFICERS COUNCIL.—In carrying out the  
17 study under this subsection, the Commission  
18 shall consult with the Chief Information Offi-  
19 cers Council established under Executive Order  
20 No. 13011.

21 (2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the  
22 initial meeting of the Commission, the Commission  
23 shall submit a report to the President and the Con-  
24 gress which shall contain a detailed statement of the  
25 findings and conclusions of the Commission, to-

1       gether with its recommendations for such legislation  
2       and administrative actions as it considers appro-  
3       priate.

4               (3) FACILITATION OF EXCHANGE OF INFORMA-  
5       TION.—In carrying out the study under this sub-  
6       section, the Commission shall, to the extent prac-  
7       ticable, facilitate the exchange of information con-  
8       cerning the issues that are the subject of the study  
9       among—

10              (A) officials of the Federal Government  
11              and the governments of States and political  
12              subdivisions thereof; and

13              (B) educators from Federal, State, and  
14              local institutions of higher education and sec-  
15              ondary schools.

16       (d) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

17              (1) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold  
18       such hearings, sit and act at such times and places,  
19       take such testimony, and receive such evidence as  
20       the Commission considers advisable to carry out the  
21       purposes of this Act.

22              (2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—  
23       The Commission may secure directly from any Fed-  
24       eral department or agency such information as the  
25       Commission considers necessary to carry out the

1 provisions of this Act. Upon request of the Chair-  
2 person of the Commission, the head of such depart-  
3 ment or agency shall furnish such information to the  
4 Commission.

5 (3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may  
6 use the United States mails in the same manner and  
7 under the same conditions as other departments and  
8 agencies of the Federal Government.

9 (4) GIFTS.—The Commission may accept, use,  
10 and dispose of gifts or donations of services or prop-  
11 erty.

12 (e) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

13 (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Except as  
14 provided in paragraph (2), each member of the Com-  
15 mission who is not an officer or employee of the  
16 Federal Government shall serve without compensa-  
17 tion. All members of the Commission who are offi-  
18 cers or employees of the United States shall serve  
19 without compensation in addition to that received for  
20 their services as officers or employees of the United  
21 States.

22 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the  
23 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-  
24 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-  
25 ized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of

1 chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while  
2 away from their homes or regular places of business  
3 in the performance of services for the Commission.

4 (3) STAFF.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the  
6 Commission may, without regard to the civil  
7 service laws and regulations, appoint and termi-  
8 nate an executive director and such other addi-  
9 tional personnel as may be necessary to enable  
10 the Commission to perform its duties. The em-  
11 ployment of an executive director shall be sub-  
12 ject to confirmation by the Commission.

13 (B) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of  
14 the Commission may fix the compensation of  
15 the executive director and other personnel with-  
16 out regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and  
17 subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United  
18 States Code, relating to classification of posi-  
19 tions and General Schedule pay rates, except  
20 that the rate of pay for the executive director  
21 and other personnel may not exceed the rate  
22 payable for level V of the Executive Schedule  
23 under section 5316 of such title.

24 (4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

25 Any Federal Government employee may be detailed

1 to the Commission without reimbursement, and such  
2 detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil  
3 service status or privilege.

4 (5) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTER-  
5 MITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Com-  
6 mission may procure temporary and intermittent  
7 services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United  
8 States Code, at rates for individuals which do not  
9 exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of  
10 basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive  
11 Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

12 (f) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—The Commis-  
13 sion shall terminate on the date that is 90 days after the  
14 date on which the Commission submits its report under  
15 this subsection.

16 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
18 appropriated \$750,000 for fiscal year 1999 to the  
19 Commission to carry out the purposes of this Act.

20 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Any sums appropriated  
21 under the authorization contained in this section  
22 shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation,  
23 until expended.

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